



THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL
OF

THE ISLE OF AXHOLME



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

1972

RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF THE ISLE OF AXHOLME

Chairman of the Council - Councillor J. Wright (Haxey)

Vice-Chairman of the Council - Councillor J. H. West (Crowle)

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman - Councillor Miss A. M. Cranidge (Crowle)

Vice-Chairman - Councillor Mrs. J. M. Macgregor J.P.
(Epworth)

Councillors:	D. H. Haynes	Amcotts
	R. Hackney	Belton
	Mrs. E. N. Johnson J.P.	Belton
	Mrs. A. Pashley	Belton
	A. E. Proctor	Crowle
	E. Weddall	Crowle
	A. B. Wise	Crowle
	J. Walker	Eastoft
	Rev. W. B. Harvey	Epworth
	T. A. Rimmington J.P.	Epworth
	Mrs. R. Halkon	Garthorpe
	H. R. Chipp J.P.	Haxey
	R. Edwards	Haxey
	E. Godley	Haxey
	D. Woodward	Keadby-with-Althorpe
	G. L. Craggs	Keadby-with-Althorpe
	R. A. Hornsby	Keadby-with-Althorpe
	Mrs. M. Britton	Luddington
	R. W. Fletcher	Owston Ferry
	J. E. Major	Owston Ferry
	J. H. Cockin	West Butterwick
	S. G. Slatford	Wroot

Engineer and Surveyor/Clerk to the Council - G. C. Edginton

Medical Officer of Health

J. S. Robertson, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., D.I.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health

A. V. Sheard, M.B., Ch.B., D.Obst.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.

Office: Public Health Department, The Cedars, Bigby Road, Brigg.
Tel: Brigg 3604/5
Clerks: Mrs. M. H. Akester, Mrs. N. A. Titman, Mrs. M. E. Jackson

Public Health Inspectors

A. J. Robinson, M.A.P.H.I.

H. Shepherd commenced duty 1.3.1972.

Office: Rural Council Offices, Epworth, Doncaster.
Tel: Epworth 607

The Cedars,
Bigby Road,
Brigg,
Lincolnshire.

October, 1973.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The figures for 1972 again show that the Isle of Axholme is basically a healthy place, with a death rate below national average, and low rates of the notifiable infectious diseases. Deaths from cerebrovascular disease increased from 26 to 33, though the total number of deaths from vascular disorders including "heart attacks" fell from 88 to 68. Ten people died of lung cancer compared with six the previous year. This is in keeping with the national trend. As you know this is largely a self inflicted disease predominantly due to cigarette smoking. There were four deaths from motor vehicle accidents as in the previous year. One of these was a young child.

The construction of new sewerage systems and extensions of existing ones has progressed satisfactorily. In a low-lying district such as this, drainage must depend on the use of electric pumps, and these are of course vulnerable to power cuts. Stand-by generators have been installed at eight points, where pump failure could lead to surcharge and flooding of premises with sewage. This is an expensive but valuable precaution.

There is still some way to go before the whole district is sewered, and it is important that the momentum should be maintained. There will always be a few properties so isolated and remote from villages that they cannot economically be included, and your policy of taking account of accessibility to mains services when considering proposals to repair or modernise such property is undoubtedly wise.

Good progress has also been maintained in housing, with 118 new houses built and 141 standard and improvement grants given, plus 41 unfit houses demolished in pursuance of slum clearance orders. It is important

that derelict old property should be demolished even if it is out of sight in a remote country area, as it can be a shelter for vermin, and become unstable and dangerous to adventurous children.

The large number of applications for improvement grants is welcomed. At the time of writing it is probably too late for new applicants to obtain the 75% grant, since work must be completed by June, 1974 to obtain this. However, a 50% grant will be payable and house improvement will still be worthwhile as an investment both in property and in good health.

Standards of food hygiene in catering premises continues to be satisfactory, with certain exceptions. It was necessary to prosecute a proprietor in one case. There were again complaints during the summer about dumping of vegetables on land in Crowle, giving rise to nuisance from offensive smell and flies. This nuisance only lasts for a few weeks each year, but is unfair to the local residents, and it may be necessary to take action under the Recurrent Nuisance Act if it happens again.

Reference was made in last year's report to the inadequacy of public transport in rural areas generally, and the introduction of a social car service is to be welcomed. This is run by the Women's Royal Voluntary Service with financial help from the County Council, and it should now be less difficult for isolated people to make visits to their doctor, chemist, dentist or optician, and perhaps, in addition, journeys of a more social nature. The ambulance service of course provides transport of patients to hospital where necessary, and this now includes visits to family planning clinics, and to hospital day centres.

We welcomed Mr. H. Shepherd to the Department on 1st March 1972, and he is ably assisting Mr. Robinson in the inspection of the District. The figures in this report indicate the wide scope and extent of the work they have undertaken during the year. They have managed to maintain your services well, despite the pressure of house improvement work which has absorbed so much of their time.

I am,

Your obedient servant,



J. S. Robertson

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
Mid-year population	14,810	14,790	14,860
Live Births	234	231	225
Stillbirths	2	2	-
Infant deaths under 4 weeks	3	3	3
Total deaths	131	143	163

	<u>Legitimate</u>			<u>Illegitimate</u>			<u>TOTAL</u>
	Male	Female	Total	Male	Female	Total	
Live Births	115	99	214	6	5	11	225
Stillbirth	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Infant deaths under 1 year	2	-	2	1	-	1	3
Infant deaths under 4 weeks	2	-	2	1	-	1	3
Infant deaths under 1 week	2	-	2	1	-	1	3

England and Wales

	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1972</u>
Crude Birth Rate	15.6	15.1	14.8
Corrected Birth Rate *	16.4	16.6	(14.8)
Stillbirth Rate	9.0	-	12.0
Infant Mortality Rate	13.0	13.0	17.0
Legitimate Infant Mortality Rate	9.0	9.0	17.0
Illegitimate Infant Mortality Rate	63.0	91.0	21.0
Neonatal Mortality Rate	13.0	13.0	12.0
Early Neonatal Mortality Rate	9.0	13.0	10.0
Perinatal Mortality Rate	17.0	13.0	22.0
Illegitimacy Rate	7.0	5.0	9.0
Crude Death Rate	9.7	11.0	12.1
Corrected Death Rate *	10.9	11.8	(12.1)

* These corrections take account of the different proportions of old and young people in the area, and make the resulting rate comparable with that for England and Wales. Thus, a resort to which old people retire would have a high crude rate, but low comparability factor would correct the false impression that this was an unhealthy area. The comparability factor for births in this district is 1.10 and for deaths 1.07.

Causes of Death in the District during the year 1972
(Registrar General's Figures)

Causes of Death	0-	1-	15-	25-	45-	65+	Total	
							M	F
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity etc.	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	-	-	-	-	1	3	3	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	-	-	-	-	3	3	2	4
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	-	-	-	-	8	2	9	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Other Malignant Neoplasms	-	-	-	-	5	5	6	4
Diabetes Mellitus	-	-	-	-	1	2	2	1
Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	2
Ischaemic Heart Disease	-	-	-	1	6	21	21	7
Other Forms of Heart Disease	-	-	-	-	-	10	5	5
Cerebrovascular Disease	-	-	-	-	4	29	17	16
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	-	-	-	-	2	10	9	3
Pneumonia	-	-	-	1	-	8	6	3
Bronchitis and Emphysema	-	-	-	-	2	3	3	2
Other Diseases of Respiratory System	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Cirrhosis of Liver	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Other Diseases of Digestive System	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	-
Hyperplasia of Prostate	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	-
Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	-	-	-	1	-	2	1	2
Congenital Anomalies	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour etc.	2	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Symptoms and Ill Defined Conditions	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Motor Vehicle Accidents	-	1	-	-	2	1	4	-
All Other Accidents	-	-	2	-	-	1	2	1
Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-
TOTAL	3	1	4	4	38	113	104	59

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

BY AGE GROUPS

DISEASES	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	25+	A.U.	TOTAL
Infective Hepatitis	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2	-	4
Measles	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	2
Food Poisoning	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	1
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
Total:	-	-	-	-	1	3	2	3	-	9

WATER SUPPLY

Water is supplied by the Doncaster and District Water Board. The supply is taken from Hatfield and Finningley boreholes.

Reports on samples of water taken by the Doncaster and District Water Board.

Hatfield Pumping Station

Appearance		Clear and Bright
Taste		Normal
Odour		None
Colour (Co/pt)		1
Turbidity (Silica)		1
pH (Units)		7.8
Electrical Conductivity (microohms/cm ³)		345
Dissolved Carbon Dioxide	(CO ₂)	2.6
Dissolved Oxygen	(O ₂)	-
Free and Saline Ammonia	(N)	< 0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia	(N)	< 0.01
Nitrite	(N)	0.01
Nitrate	(N)	7.3
Permanganate Value (4hr ^N / ₈₀)	(O)	0.1
Total Hardness	(CaCO ₃)	168
Calcium Hardness	(CaCO ₃)	99
Sodium	(Na)	9.0
Potassium	(K)	2.8
Chloride	(Cl)	23
Bicarbonate Alkalinity	(CaCO ₃)	90
Sulphate	(SO ₄)	45
Ortho-phosphate	(P)	0.04
Silica (Molybdate reactive)	(SiO ₂)	9.6
Fluoride	(F)	0.04
Iron	(Fe)	< 0.01
Manganese	(Mn)	< 0.01
Copper	(Cu)	0.01
Lead	(Pb)	0.01
Zinc	(Zn)	0.02

Finningley Pumping Station

Appearance		Clear and Bright
Taste		Normal
Odour		None
Colour (Co/Pt)		< 1
Turbidity (Silica)		2
pH (Units)		8.0
Electrical Conductivity (microohms/cm ³)		310
Dissolved Carbon Dioxide	(CO ₂)	1.6
Dissolved Oxygen	(O ₂)	-
Free and Saline Ammonia	(N)	0.01
Albuminoid Ammonia	(N)	0.01
Nitrite	(N)	0.03
Nitrate	(N)	2.9
Permanganate Value (4 hr $\frac{N}{80}$)	(O)	0.2
Total Hardness	(CaCO ₃)	160
Calcium Hardness	(CaCO ₃)	96
Sodium	(Na)	10.4
Potassium	(K)	1.8
Chloride	(Cl)	22
Bicarbonate Alkalinity	(CaCO ₃)	121
Sulphate	(SO ₄)	26
Ortho-phosphate	(P)	< 0.01
Silica (Molybdate reactive)	(SiO ₂)	7.8
Fluoride	(F)	0.06
Iron	(Fe)	0.03
Manganese	(Mn)	0.04
Copper	(Cu)	0.01
Lead	(Pb)	< 0.01
Zinc	(Zn)	0.04

Bacteriological Examination of Water

521 samples of water from Finningley and Hatfield Boreholes were submitted for bacteriological examination, all were satisfactory.

In addition 75 samples of water were taken from service storage. The single unsatisfactory sample was due to roof seepage and the fault was immediately rectified.

100 samples of water were taken from premises in various parts of the district and only two of these were unsatisfactory.

The above details regarding bacteriological examination were provided by the Doncaster and District Joint Water Board.

GENERAL INFORMATION

The Isle of Axholme is a strip of 51,104 acres of land on the west bank of the river Trent, extending from a point just south of the confluence of the Ouse and Trent to the Nottinghamshire border. It lies in the flood plain of the river and much of the land is reclaimed marshland. It is divided into 13 parishes. Although the economy of the area is based predominantly on agriculture there are a number of small industries in the district, and at Keadby where a large pumping station lifts water draining a large part of the district up to the Trent there is a Central Electricity Generating Board Power Station and a wharf where coasters load and unload.

The main villages are of considerable antiquity. They were built on hummocks of higher land before the lower parts were drained, and their distribution was therefore determined by such features.

The population of the area is 14,860 and the rateable value £477,961 giving a penny rate product of £4,518.

Primary medical care is given by the General Medical Practitioners under contract to the Lincolnshire Executive County Council in Belton, Crowle, Epworth, Haxey and Keadby. General Hospital facilities are provided by the Sheffield Regional Hospital Board at Scunthorpe and at Doncaster, but the Psychiatric Hospital beds for the area are provided near Lincoln.

Personal Social Services provided by the Social Services Department of Lindsey County Council are administered from the Gainsborough Area Office, but a sub-office is provided at Epworth.

Details of Infant Welfare Clinics in the area are as follows:-

<u>Place</u>	<u>Day of Week</u>	<u>Time of Day</u>
Belton Methodist School Room	2nd & 4th Monday	Afternoons
Crowle Youth Centre	1st & 3rd Wednesday	Afternoons
Epworth Chapel Street	2nd & 4th Wednesday	Afternoons
Haxey Memorial Hall	2nd & 4th Thursday	Mornings
Keadby Edinbugh Road	Every Tuesday	Afternoons

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HOUSING

Total number of new houses erected during the year:

By the local authority	24
By other local authorities	None
By other bodies or persons	94
Number allocated for replacing houses subject to Demolition Orders or otherwise demolished	12

Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year:

Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects	410
Number of inspections made for the purpose	527

Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices:

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority	52
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Action under statutory powers during the year:

(1) Proceedings under Public Health Acts -

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	71
Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	62
(b) By local authority in default of owners	62

(2) Proceedings under the Housing Acts -

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	Nil
Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:	
(a) By owners	3
(b) By local authority in default of owners	4
(c) Number of unfit houses purchased by local authority in accordance with the Housing Acts	Nil
Number of certificates of disrepair issued	Nil

(3)	Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts.	
	Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	10
	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
	Number of dwelling-houses or parts, subject to Closing Orders	Nil
	Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, rendered fit by undertakings	4
	Number of dwelling-houses included in confirmed Clearance Orders	3
	Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance thereof	41
	Total number of dwelling-houses on which Demolition Orders are operative and to which are still occupied except under the provisions of Section 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	Nil
	Total number of dwelling-houses occupied under Sections 34, 35 and 46 of the Housing Act, 1957	6
	Houses demolished or closed voluntarily by owners which would otherwise have been the subject of statutory action to secure demolition or closure	7
(4)	Nissen huts or similar hutments -	
	Number still occupied	Nil
(5)	Estimated number of dwellings remaining to be dealt with under -	
	(a) The Housing Act, 1957, Sections 16 and 18	8
	(b) The Housing Act, 1957, Section 42	Nil

Housing Acts - Overcrowding

Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	1
Number of persons concerned in such cases	9
Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	Nil

Housing Act, 1969.

Number of dwellings for which application for grants
have been made -

(a) Standard Grant	16
(b) Improvement Grant	131
(c) Special Grant	Nil

Number of dwellings subject to grant -

(a) Standard Grant	18
(b) Improvement Grant	123
(c) Special Grant	Nil

Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.

Number of site licences	13
Number of caravans permitted under such licences	13
Number of inspections made during the year -	
(a) Sites	22
(b) Caravans	13
Number of contraventions remedied	4
Number of sites exempt from licence	2
Number of caravans thereon	11

FOOD PREMISES

Bakehouses:

Number in the district	13
Number of inspections made	6
Number of contraventions found	10
Number of defects remedied	7

Ice Cream:

Number of manufacturers on register	Nil
Number of premises licenced for sale of ice cream	34
Number of inspections of premises made	42
Number of contraventions found	5
Number of contraventions remedied	5

Meat products:

Number of premises registered for manufacture of meat products	9
Number of inspections made	12
Number of contraventions found	3
Number of contraventions remedied	3

Other Food Premises:

Number of other food premises	34
Number of inspections made	31
Number of contraventions found	6
Number of contraventions remedied	6

Slaughterhouses:

Number of licensed (abattoir type)	Nil
Number Licensed (private)	1
Number operated by local authority	Nil

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

Closets:

Number of houses with privy vaults	Nil
Number of houses with pail closets	150
Number of houses with water closets	5,173
Number of water closets substituted for pail closets and privy vaults	42
The Council operates a pail closet emptying service.	

Cesspools and Septic Tanks:

Number of septic tanks abolished	45
The Council operates a septic tank emptying service.	
Number of vehicles in use for emptying pail closets, cesspools and septic tanks	1

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal:

Villages where provision has been made of new sewers or where existing arrangements improved:

Low Burnham, Epworth, Westwoodside, house drains connections completed.

Extensions commenced at Drain head, Owston Ferry.

Details of villages where provision has been made of new sewage disposal facilities or existing arrangements improved:

Keadby and Althorpe sewage works extended.

Parts of the district urgently requiring public sewers and/or treatment works for Public Health reasons:

Sandtoft, Beltoft and Woodhouse. Belton drains discharged to open dykes causing a public health nuisance.

GENERAL

Offensive Trades

Number of premises in the district	Nil
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Knackers Yard

Number licensed	Nil
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Office, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Number of premises licensed	109
Number of inspections made	105
Number of defects found	10
Number of defects remedied	9

Disfection and Disinfestation

Number of rooms or premises disinfected -	
(a) Infectious disease other than tuberculosis	Nil
(b) Tuberculosis	Nil
Number of premises subject to disinfestation	3

Refuse Collection and Disposal

Number of premises from which refuse is collected	5,323
Frequency of collection	Weekly
Type of receptacle used	Bin
	Sacks from 208 Council Houses
Number of tips	2
Number of refuse collection vehicles	2
Estimated amount of refuse disposed of during the year -	
Domestic	5,480 tons
Trade	410 tons

Details of Nuisances Abated

Nuisance	After informal Intimation	After statutory notice
Refuse	29	-
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	15	-
Drainage	35	-
Poultry and animals	9	-
Dangerous Premises	-	-
Miscellaneous Nuisances	15	-
Total:	103	-

Atmospheric Pollution

Number of visits made

Nil

Noise Abatement Act, 1960

Number of complaints

3

Number of nuisances found

2

Number of nuisances abated

2

Control of Vermin

Number of rodent operatives employed 1

Number of premises treated:

(a) Dwelling-houses 4,621

(b) Other premises 863

There are no serious reservoirs of rats in the district

The service covers domestic, business and agricultural premises.

UN SOUND FOOD - Meat

3 Cattle excluding Cows were slaughtered in 1972

There were 3 inspections

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

Approximately 8 tons of tinned food and 1 ton of packet food voluntarily surrendered.

Method of disposal of condemned food:

Meat - Authorised Processor

Other Foods - Buried at Refuse Tip

FACTORIES ACT 1961

The number of factories on the register, including 13 bakehouses, is 125. During the year 154 visits were paid to these premises, which resulted in ten offences against the Act being remedied. This work has been facilitated by the ready co-operation which has been extended at all times by Her Majesty's Inspector for the district.

The following table in the form required by the Ministry gives a summary of the work undertaken by the Public Health Inspector.

Part 1 of the Act

1. Inspection for the purpose of provisions as to health.

Premises	Number on Register	Inspections	Number of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
i Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are enforced by local authorities	33	9	-	-
ii Factories not included in i in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority	50	49	-	-
iii Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the local authority (excluding outworkers)	42	96	10	-
Total:	125	154	10	-

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M.I.	By H.M.I.	
Want of Cleanliness (S.1)	-	-	-	-	-
Overcrowding (S.2)	-	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	-	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	-	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	-	-	-	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences -					
(a) Insufficient	3	3	-	2	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	5	-	2	-
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	-	-	-
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-Work)	-	-	-	-	-
Total:	11	9	-	4	-

